

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know whether the sugar-cane is utilised for the manufacture of sugar in the State at present?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: Not at present. The refinery at Thuckalai is suitable only for refining Palmyra jaggery.

Prohibition of alcoholic drinks.

454 *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken by the Government during the year 1120 to ensure the policy of prohibition regarding use of alcoholic drinks and if so what they are?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: (i) No step was taken for ensuring immediate prohibition.

(ii) As usual indirect control measures were taken including:

(a) Enhancement of duty on liquor.

(b) Enhancement of license fee.

(c) Enhancement of shop rentals.

(d) Fixation of quota for arrack supply.

(f) Prohibition of the sale of liquor to persons below eighteen years of age.

Alwaye Town Toddy Shop No. 20.

455 *MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have received petitions from the public of Alwaye asking for the removal of Alwaye Town Toddy Shop No. 20 from its present site which is in close proximity to several boys' and girls' schools and places of public worship;

(b) when these petitions were received;

(c) what action they have taken in the matter; and

(d) whether the grievance has been brought to the notice of the Dewan during his recent Alwaye visit?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: (a) and (b) Copy of a petition dated 7th July 1944 addressed to the Excise Commissioner was received by Government on the 4th August 1944.

(c) Enquiry has been held and it has been ordered that arrangements should be made for the removal of the shop from the present site as early as practicable;

(d) Yes.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know from the honourable member when the order for removing the shop was given?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: It was in February last.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether that order has been put into operation?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: No, Sir.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know the reasons for not putting it into operation, though the Government have passed an order to that effect?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: The local Inspector has been ordered to see that the shop was shifted as early as possible. There was some difficulty in getting buildings. There were also some petitions from other contractors. The Inspector is being asked to carry out the order as early as possible.